

What is claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing glass parts for connecting optical fibers, comprising heating  
5 predetermined parts of a glass tube having an internal hole while applying pressure into said internal hole, to expand said predetermined parts, thus forming tapered portions.

2. A method of manufacturing glass parts for  
10 connecting optical fibers as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heating of said glass tube and the application of pressure into said internal hole are carried out while restricting an increase in an outside diameter of said glass tube.

15 3. A method of manufacturing glass parts for connecting optical fibers as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heating of said glass tube and the application of pressure into said internal hole are carried out while drawing said glass tube in a longitudinal axial direction  
20 thereof.

4. A method of manufacturing glass parts for connecting optical fibers as claimed in claim 1, further comprising cutting each of the predetermined parts of said glass tube to obtain an open end in which one of  
25 said tapered portions is formed, after the heating of said glass tube and the application of pressure into said internal hole.

5. A method of manufacturing glass parts for connecting optical fibers as claimed in claim 2, wherein  
30 the heating of said glass tube and the application of pressure into said internal hole are carried out while said glass tube is placed in a frame.

6. A glass part for connecting optical fibers manufactured using the method claimed in ~~any one of~~  
35 ~~claims 1 through 3~~, wherein said glass part has open  
claim 1

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ends, and wherein at least one of the open ends of said glass part is tapered in such a manner that there is a continuous curved surface at a boundary between the at least one of the open ends and said internal hole.

New claims 7 & 8 added.

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